Cultivation in Sikkim

3995. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to grow and extend the cultivation of cardamom, paddy, oranges, ginger, etc. crops in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the datails thereof and the details of funds allocated and released to the State for the same during the last three years; and

(c) the details of progress achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim (TMNE) since 2001-02 to address all the issues related to development of horticulture in these States which include promotion of cultivation of crops like cardamom, orange, ginger and other horticultural crops in the State of Sikkim. During the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07, an additional area of 13,134 ha. have been brought under cultivation in Sikkim, which comprises 3,141 ha. of fruits (940 ha. of oranges), 2,929 ha. of vegetables 6,180 ha. of spices (2860 ha. of Cardamom and 2400 ha. of Ginger) and 884 ha. of flowers.

The details of funds allocated and released for implementation of programmes under TMNE Scheme in Sikkim for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Release
2004-05	1150.00	1150.00
2005-06	1800.00	1800.00
2006-07	2331.00	2331.00

Sikkim being a hilly State, emphasis is given for increase in productivity of paddy by encouraging varietal replacement and use of hybrids. During the last three years, Rs. 18.00 lakhs have been released for encouraging varietal replacement in paddy. During this period, the

productivity of paddy has increased from 1450 kg/ha. (2004-05) to 1537 kg/ha. (2006-07).

Per capita availability of milk

3996. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability and consumption of milk is very low when compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to increase the production of milk so as to increase the availability and consumption of milk in the country;

(d) whether the price of milk and milk products rises steadily and make it out of the reach of poor and lower middle class people; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make the prices of milk and milk products cheaper to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per capita availability of milk in India during 2005-06 is 241gms per day, which is very low as compared to developed countries. However, India stands first in the milk production. Low productivity of animal and large human population are the main reasons for lower per capita availability. As per National Sample Survey Organization's latest quinquennial round (2004-05), the per capita consumption during 2004-05 in rural India is 129 gms per day and in urban India it is 170 gms per day whereas the per capita consumption per day for some of the developed countries during 2005, as per FAOSTAT website is as follows:

Countries	*per capita milk consumption (gm'day)*
France	865
Sweden	863
Switzerland	857
Germany	724
USA	703
UK	661
Italy	572